

The "NET"

BUSINESS WATCH

ROBBERY

Since January 2004 there have been twenty-one commercial robberies. Eight at convenience stores, six at restaurants, four at banks and one each at jewelry, tobacco and liquor stores. A handgun was displayed in eight of the robberies. We've had some new techniques that I want to make you aware of:

FOOD DELIVERY PEOPLE are being robbed as they arrive to make a delivery.

Preventive actions:

- Carry as little money as possible.
- Verify the phone # and address in the telephone book or call information.
- Call the person back to confirm the order.
- Be observant when going into the area for the delivery.
- Check the area for anyone hanging around, check between houses for anyone waiting.
- Drive around the block before stopping to make the delivery.

BANKS are being robbed as employees open the bank.

Preventive Action:

- Drive around the building as you arrive.
- Make a 360 degree turn in the parking lot to check the outer areas of the lot.
- Keep bushes trimmed to no taller than 3' and trees no lower than 6' to prevent someone from hiding under or behind the landscape.
- Back into the parking stall. If you see someone approaching, you can quickly leave.

GENERAL PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS in any robbery.

- Train all employees on what to do in case of a robbery.
- Make sure the camera and alarm systems are working properly and are always on. If using a video tape replace it periodically.
- Record the serial numbers of several bills to have as "bait" money in the cash register.
- Keep windows free from obstruction.
- Ensure that all rear and side doors are locked and well lit.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash at your business.
- Keep a key in any room you could get locked into.
- Be alert and aware of people on the business property.

WHAT TO DO DURING A ROBBERY:

- Do not do anything to jeopardize your personal safety or the safety of other employees or customers.
- Comply with the demands of the robber.
- Consider all firearms real and loaded.
- Keep any note the robber may hand you. Put it to the side or drop it on the floor.
- Get a description of the robber.
- Do not chase the robber.
- Once the robber has left call 911 immediately.
- Lock the door to the business.
- Don't touch or walk where the robber has been.
- Detain any witnesses until the police arrive.
- Do not discuss what happened with other employees or customers until the police have interviewed you.

PHYSICAL

CHARACTERISTICS: Look for

- Race
- Age
- Height/weight
- Scars/tattoos
- Hairstyle - color & length
- Facial characteristics - beard, mustache, glasses
- Clothing
- Type of gun - revolver, semi automatic, shotgun
- Car - make, model, color, year, license #, clean, dirty, damage



**Year to Date
Statistics**

1/1/04 to 5/31/04

Robbery

NW - 1

NE - 5

CE - 8

SW - 6

SE - 5

**Commercial
Burglary**

NW - 34/7

NE - 28/5

CE - 44/8

SW - 23/5

SE - 48/6

Forgery

NW - 138/94

NE - 116/84

CE - 53/36

SW - 83/60

SE - 176/90

Shoplifting

NW - 136/106

NE - 196/160

CE - 39/21

SW - 115/100

SE - 115/94

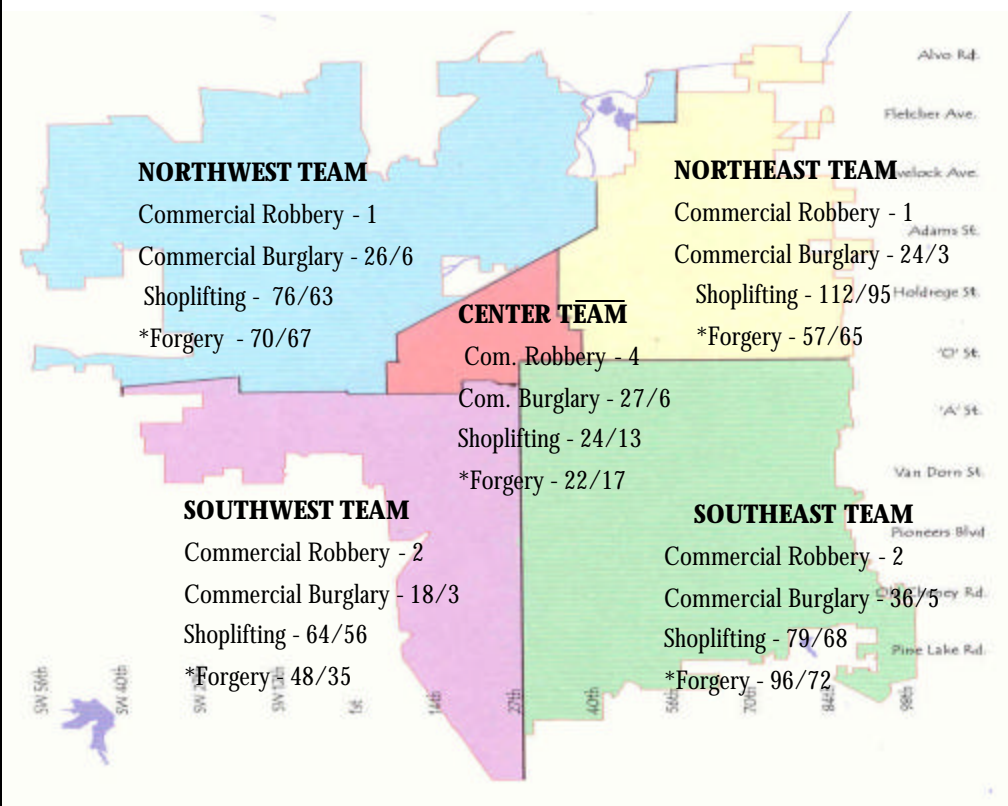
CRIME TRENDS

From 3-1-2004 to 5-31-04

For more information about the crime trends in your neighborhood go to the city web site.

<http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police>

The first number will be the number of reported incidents. The second number is how many incidents have been cleared with the person responsible being identified.



* Forgeries involve personal, business checks and credit cards

Multiple Burglaries Inside Office Buildings

Recently there have been a number of burglaries at office buildings where, once the intruder was inside, several businesses were victimized. If a burglar can stay inside after the building is closed they can usually remain undetected and have easy access to any business or office space. When there are two or more businesses in a building the tenants should come to some sort of agreement regarding common-use space such as the hallways, breezeways, entrances and even public restrooms. There should be some control of those areas by limiting access, some means of checking the security and some procedure for clearing that space prior to closing and locking the building. Businesses could employ some sort of cooperative where an alarm system, cameras, or security personnel are used and everyone shares the cost. Some form of communication between businesses could also be helpful so that everyone in the building is aware of past incidents such as vandalisms, larcenies, disgruntled customers, or suspicious people.

During the investigation of several burglaries inside a building it was learned that an employee of one of the businesses had observed a suspicious man in a stairwell near to closing time. The man was not familiar to the building and had no apparent legitimate reason for being there. The employee took no action regarding the man and returned to work the next day to find that all of the businesses inside had been broken into. If you encounter a stranger in the building ask them if you can help them find where they need to go. If you feel uncomfortable confronting them at least report to someone else in the building so they are aware the person is there. You can also call for a police officer to come investigate a suspicious person if you think their behavior merits that kind of help. Cooperation and communication are good crime prevention tools at work or at home.

PREVENTING CONSTRUCTION SITE BURGLARY AND LARCENY

THEFT OF EQUIPMENT: Establish an inventory control system for all equipment and tools.

- Record the year, manufacturer, model number, and product identification number or serial number from the actual plates or decals and the color.
- Date of purchase.
- Note any additional markings & numbers you may have added.
- Keep a picture or catalog photo of the item.
- Assign equipment by serial number to work teams or supervisors.
- If a crew works at more than one location, make sure the crew knows where the tools & equipment are.

LOCK EQUIPMENT: Lock and immobilize equipment during non-working hours.

- Attach anti-theft devices such as steering-wheel locks, kill switches, tire and wheel/axle locks, locking fuel caps. Place an alarm system on major pieces of equipment and trailers containing tools, trailer wheel and hitch locks.

ANCHORING:

- Equipment that must be left on site should be anchored with either a chain or cable which can be brightly painted as a deterrent.
- Large equipment can be immobilized by removing wires or battery and lowering all blades or buckets.
- If you have a trailer, block the doors with equipment, vehicles or push the trailer up next to the building to prevent the doors being opened even if the locks are cut off.
- Park trailers, trucks, bobcats, etc. under a street light and/or in view of an occupied residence/business.

MARKING TOOLS:

- Double stamp all tools, equipment and attachments with an identification number - one in view and the other hidden.
- Know the number, word or symbol used.
- Record where on the tools you have marked it.
- Paint tools and equipment with bright easily recognizable colors to identify them from a distance.
- Stencil or bead weld the company logo or other identifying marks on the equipment.

GENERAL PREVENTIVE MEASURES:

- If you're out at night and in the area, take a side trip and drive past your construction site.
- Place a video camera in the trailer if left on site.
- Temporary lighting.
- Temporary fencing around the construction site.
- Hire a security guard.

THEFT FROM VEHICLES:

- Take tools out of your vehicle if parked outside at night.
- Park your vehicle in the garage or at least on the driveway.
- If tools are left in the vehicle, try and keep them out of sight of someone looking in the windows.

Make sure the workers report any suspicious activity or persons around the work site.

If you do have a larceny or burglary, call the Police to report the incident. If it is a belated report, call the non emergency # 441-6000. If you observed the crime in progress, call 911.

THE "NET" BUSINESS WATCH

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIME PREVENTION GROUP

575 S. 10TH St.

Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Return Service

CRIME-FREE DOLLARS

The most frequent property crime in Lincoln continues to be larcenies from autos. In an effort to raise awareness and reduce the numbers of this crime the Lincoln Police Crime Prevention Group once again teamed up with AAA Insurance. One of the most victimized groups is young adults in high school or college. Officers contacted students at all six of the Lincoln Public High Schools. They were asked to make sure all valuables were either removed or placed out of sight and that the vehicle was locked. During subsequent days the parking areas around these schools were surveyed. The license plate numbers of cars that met the safety criteria were written down. On May 17th a random drawing was held and one license number from each school was pulled out of the hat. The six students associated with the drawn numbers each won \$50 cash - provided by AAA Insurance. The winners are:

Mica Dearing - East High
Anna Hill - Southwest High
Richy L. Massa - Lincoln High
Whitney Thiel - Southeast High
Tommy N. Vu - Northstar High
Benjamin Richter - Northeast High



Marilyn Muir of AAA Insurance and Sgt. Mike Siefkes of the Lincoln Police Department drawing out the names of the \$50 winners